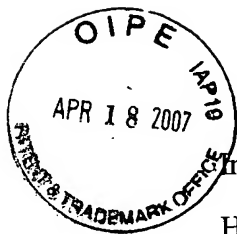


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03500.101152.

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HIROSHI MAEHARA

)  
: Examiner: Fayez G. Assaf

)  
: Group Art Unit: 2872

Application No.: 10/537,413

Int'l App. No.: PCT/JP04/005550

Int'l Filing Date.: April 19, 2004

For: APPARATUS FOR HANDLING  
MINUTE OBJECT

)  
: April 17, 2007

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of documents (2) and (3) are enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,501,071
- (2) JP 2000-241310
- (3) JP 2002-219700

04/19/2007 SZEWDI1 00000050 10537413

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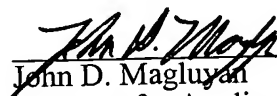
English language abstracts accompanies each of documents (2) and (3). Documents (2) and (3) are also discussed in the specification of the subject application and may be deemed relevant for the reasons given therein. In addition, it is noted that document (1) is an English-language counterpart for document (2). The concise explanation of relevance for non-English language documents (2) and (3) is believed to be satisfied by the English language abstracts, the discussion provided in the specification, and the English language counterpart. See MPEP-609.

The subject application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a final action or a Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and is accompanied by the \$180.00 fee specified at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested.

Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449 and returning the initialed form to Applicant with the next communication.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John D. Magluyan  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No.: 56,867

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)ATTY DOCKET NO.  
**03500.101152.**APPLICATION NO.  
**10/537,413**APPLICANT  
**HIROSHI MAEHARA**FILING DATE  
**April 19, 2004**GROUP  
**2872**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	<b>6,501,071</b>	<b>12/2002</b>	<b>Hatase</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>251</b>	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
<b>2000-241310</b>	<b>09/2000</b>	<b>Japan</b>			<b>Abstract</b>
<b>2002-219700</b>	<b>08/2002</b>	<b>Japan</b>			<b>Abstract</b>

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1